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REVIEWS AND NOTES.

STATISTICS OF HEREDITY.

One of the most significant recent contributions to biology is a book entitled "Mental and Moral Heredity in Royalty," by Frederick Adams Woods (Henry Holt & Co., New York), in which scientific modern methods are applied to the more complex problems of inheritance. The author has used for his material 832 members of the reigning families of Europe, and has classified them into ten grades for mental, and ten grades for moral qualities. The classification is made, as far as possible, impersonal, being based solely on the printed estimates of a certain set of authorities chosen before the inception of the work. The clear and concordant results obtained furnish evidences of the general soundness of the method. Dr. Woods finds first an important correlation between mental and moral traits, about .3 as worked out by Pearson's method. This is nearly the same as the correlation between strength of pull and weight. Furthermore, a distinct correlation appears between moral qualities and the number of offspring reaching adult life,—a hopeful sign for the future of the race. Comparing different generations, it appears that the correlations in intellectual power follows Galton's theory very closely, being .3007 for parent and offspring, .1606 for grand-parent and offspring, and .1528 for great-grand-parent and offspring, to be compared with theoretical values of .3, .15, and .075, respectively. For moral qualities a similar relation holds. The application of scientific methods in a new and difficult field makes this book a notable one. The reviewer commends it to psychologists, historians, and particularly to social reformers, as well as to statisticians.

A paper by Sir W. R. Gowers on "Insanity and Epilepsy in Relation to Life Insurance" in the *Medical Examiner and Practitioner* for January, 1905, with a discussion in the March and April numbers of the same journal, suggests an important line of statistical research, as yet almost unworked. The point of Dr. Gowers's original communication was that many forms of insanity are not associated with such general pathological defects as to shorten life and make their victims undesirable insurance risks. Ignoring the distinction between the widely different causes which may lead to the symptoms of mental

derangement, it was shown by Dr. Robert Jones in the subsequent discussion that the general death-rate for the insane in hospitals is six times that of the normal population. This difference is naturally greatest at the earliest age periods, and the insane rate is only twice that for normal persons, over 85. A most suggestive fact is mentioned by the same observer,—that of 200 insane persons of suicidal tendencies, 55 showed a history of hereditary insanity in the direct line, and 55 more in collateral lines. Accurate determinations of hereditary correlations for different types of mental disorder should be of much practical value.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

FOREIGN VITAL STATISTICS.

Census of London.—A quinquennial census of the administrative county of London and the city of London is taken this year. A similar census in 1896 proved of such value in the apportionment of rates among the various boroughs as to warrant its repetition. The questions asked will be simple, including only the name, sex, and age of the person and his or her relation to the head of the family. Such a determination of the fundamental facts of population, as the *Standard* points out, is not only needful for the equalization of rates, but “will also be of great value to the Council in other various branches of its work, such as the housing of the working classes, education, locomotion, and public health, and of no less value to the metropolitan borough councils and the guardians of the poor.”

Newsholme on Measles and Diarrhoea.—The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Brighton, England, in 1904, makes several contributions to our knowledge of the etiology of measles. As in other communications, Dr. Newsholme points out the cyclical changes in the prevalence of this disease, epidemics occurring every second or third year, and large epidemics at intervals from five to nine years apart. An important point in the present outbreak is the absence of a single death in a child over six years of age. 270 cases were reported at ages over six, while under six years there were 964 reported cases and 94 deaths. Evidently, the disease is only serious among very young children. From a study of the history of certain families which moved into houses in which cases of measles had occurred earlier in the epidemic, the author concludes that special disinfection in this disease is unnecessary.

The same report contains a table which is interesting because it confirms so well the classic Berlin statistics which show the relation